

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-08

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 PM-04 MC-02 CIAE-00 INR-07

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DRAFTED BY AF/E:RSBARRETT/GWSCOTT:JJ

APPROVED BY AF/E:RSBARRETT

PM/SAS:DHESTER

NEA/ARP:FDICKMAN

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R 160254Z SEP 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SANA

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 229207

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, YE, FT, US

SUBJECT: YARG CONCERN ABOUT MILITARY SALES TO ETHIOPIA

REF: SANA 3189

1. EIGHT F5E AIRCRAFT WERE DELIVERED TO ETHIOPIA IN APRIL OF THIS YEAR AS THE FIRST HALF OF A 16 PLANE SALE, CONTRACT FOR WHICH WAS SIGNED IN NOVEMBER 1975. THE REMAINING EIGHT PLANES WILL BE DELIVERED IN 1977. THIS IS A CASH PURCHASE UNDER THE FOREIGN MILITARY SALES (FMS) PROGRAM.

2. ETHIOPIA'S PROVISIONAL MILITARY GOVERNMENT (PMG) IS ALSO PURCHASING UNDER FMS CASH PROCEDURES, FROM SWIFTSHIPS OF LOUISIANA, SIX 105 FOOT PATROL CRAFT, AND OBTAINING ANOTHER FROM THE USG ON A GRANT BASIS.

3. ALL THREE OF THESE TRANSACTIONS FALL WITHIN SECURITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM WHICH HAS BEEN ON-GOING WITH ETHIOPIA
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SINCE 1953, AND WHICH ALSO INCLUDES GRANT AID AND CREDIT

PURCHASES.

4. YOU MAY TELL YARG THAT WE SYMPATHIZE WITH THEIR CONCERN
FOR RESPECT OF THEIR TERRITORIAL WATERS AND HOPE CONFLICTING

CLAIMS OVER RED SEA ISLANDS CAN BE SATISFACTORILY RESOLVED,
AND WE TRUST THE RECENT INCIDENTS ARE ISOLATED ONES WHICH
DO NOT PORTEND GRAVER DEVELOPMENTS. YOU MAY ALSO SAY THAT
OUR ASSISTANCE TO ETHIOPIA IS GIVEN IN LARGE PART IN ORDER
TO MAINTAIN STABILITY IN THE HORN AND THEREBY PRESERVE A
PEACE TO WHICH WE ARE CERTAIN THE YARG IS DEDICATED. IN
LIGHT OF THESE FACTORS WE ARE CONFIDENT YARG WILL AGREE
THAT IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO DELAY MILITARY SHIPMENTS FOR
WHICH ETHIOPIA HAS ALREADY CONTRACTED AND BEGUN PAYING.

5. WE ARE POUCHING YOU A STATEMENT RECENTLY MADE BEFORE
SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE ON AFRICA BY ASSISTANT SECRETARY
SCHAUFELER WHICH SETS FORTH US POLICY TOWARD THE HORN OF
AFRICA. ROBINSON

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